

WARREN COUNTY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

October 20, 2006

Chairman Kevin Martin
Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 06-74

Dear FCC Commissioners:


I am writing to urge expeditious approval of the BellSouth / AT&T merger. As President of the Warren County Chamber of Commerce, I know first hand the issues impeding economic growth in rural areas of our State. This merger will address one of the most critical needs required of any community seeking to grow its economy and new jobs – affordable and universal broadband Internet access. This is a subject that our community has been actively seeking an answer to for some time.

The proposed AT&T / BellSouth merger could be the catalyst for dynamic economic change in our rural community of Warrenton Goergia. As a proposed condition of the merger, AT&T and BellSouth have committed to deliver *affordable* and *universal* access to broadband, including:

- ☒ A new residential broadband offering at \$10 per month, affording many rural communities a viable alternative to dial access;
- ☒ A pledge to provide broadband Internet access to *all* residential living units in the AT&T / BellSouth service area, providing rural economic developers a necessary tool to recruit new economic development prospects to our rural communities.

The merger of these great American companies will significantly enhance the economic viability of the community we serve. I ask you to approve the AT&T / BellSouth merger without further delay.

Sincerely,


O. B. McCorkle
President
Warren County Chamber of Commerce